

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING OF
June 3, 2003**

**Conference Call
Olympia, WA**

MINUTES

PARTICIPANTS

Commissioners: Rudy Vasquez; Ellis Casson; Charlotte Coker; Dallas Barnes; and J. Reiko Callner. A quorum was present.

Staff: Tanya Calahan, Commission Clerk, Sue Jordan, Executive Director; Dariush Khaleghi, Deputy Director, Cheryl Strobert, Program Manager, Idolina Reta, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, Jean Ciallella, Executive Assistant, Anna White, Secretary Senior, and Stewart Johnston, Assistant Attorney General.

Guests: Brad Shannon, The Olympian and Corbett Gordon

(Audio tape one – side one)

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Vasquez.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Commission Clerk Tanya Calahan explained that she reviewed the audio tapes of the March 28, 2003 Commission meeting and verified that the motion made by Commissioner Callner regarding postponing any major agency reorganization until July 1, 2003 failed. Commissioner Coker made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27-28, 2003 with the addition of the failed motion to the minutes and the correction to spelling of Commissioner Vasquez's last name on page six, paragraph seven. Commissioner Callner seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commissioners next considered the minutes of the Special Commission meeting of March 25, 2003. Commissioner Coker made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2003 Special Commission meeting. Commissioner Callner seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commissioners considered the minutes of the April 24-25, 2003 Commission meeting. Commissioner Callner requested that the Clerk add the word "was" between the word "violation" and "found" to page eight, paragraph two, line two of the minutes. She then made a motion to approve the minutes of April 24-25, 2003 with the correction. Commissioner Coker seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

**STATUS
REPORT OF
FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

Commission Clerk Tanya Calahan reported that she will send the letter of support to Governor Locke regarding the sexual orientation bill with electronic signatures of the Commissioners.

She also reported that she will send the farm worker forum report to members of the Washington State House of Representatives and the Washington State Senate.

**APPROVAL OF
CASE CLOSURES**

Commissioner Callner requested that staff remove an unnecessary quotation mark from item four on page one of the reasonable cause finding for Lattimore v. Eagle's Landing.

She also requested that staff clarify what day Complainant was suspended and whether was she paid during her suspension in the case of Price v. Larson Juhl, Inc. Operations Manager Regina Hook will look into the matter and report her findings to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Callner then made a motion to approve the case list for the period of April 19 – May 23, 2003 with the noted corrections. Commissioner Coker seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

AGENCY UPDATE

Deputy Director Dariush Khaleghi reported on monthly agency performance. He spoke about new charges received, case closures, and pending case inventory.

He highlighted aging case statistics. Staff continues to work on decreasing the aging cases inventory. He also spoke about performance measures and accountability standards that will be implemented.

Administrative Services Manager Reneé Knight highlighted the agency's budget. She reported that staff has made efforts to keep operating costs down and the agency has stayed under the allocation for state funds.

There was discussion about Attorney General revolving fund charges. There is a \$524 thousand biennium allocation for Attorney General expenses. Commissioner Callner asked whether litigation expenses for discrimination cases comes from the same fund as other Attorney General expenses. Ms. Knight verified that they do. Commissioner Callner requested that the Commission revisit the litigation process for reasonable cause cases at the next face to face Commission meeting.

Commissioner Callner inquired about the EEOC conference attended by the Executive Director in Chicago recently and who paid for the trip. Ms. Knight verified that EEOC will cover \$1200 for trip. EEOC and the HUD contracts require a certain amount of out of state travel.

Commissioner Callner raised concern about the approval process for out of state travel. Ms. Knight verified that Office of Financial Management approval is required

for out of state travel.

Commissioner Callner requested that the Commissioner's know about out of state travel ahead of time.

The Commissioners discussed rescheduling a Commissioner workshop. Commissioner Callner will take the lead in scheduling a workshop with consultant Dee Endleman.

Special Assistant to the Executive Director Idolina Reta commented about a customer satisfaction survey. She requested input from the Commissioners about the survey by Friday, June 6, 2003.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Vasquez announced at 10:30 a.m. that the Commissioners will be in executive session until 11:00 a.m. to receive information and evaluate a complaint regarding a staff member. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Vasquez announced that the Commissioners are waiting for additional information. The Commissioners anticipate that information to be forthcoming within 48 hours. Therefore, the Commissioners postponed personnel action until a later date.

Commissioner Vasquez recommended that the Commissioners postpone the remaining items on the agenda until the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Callner suggested that a Special Meeting take place on Monday, June 9, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Y. Calahan
Commission Clerk